

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a rights management system for protecting messages from unauthorized access, a method of providing an entity the ability to enforce conditions under which the entity's message server will accept messages by providing the message server with a message server use license to access the protected messages, while still controlling unauthorized access to the protected messages by also providing a publishing license, the method comprising acts of:

receiving data including a message with a protected portion, a—the publishing license and a—the message server use license that is separate from the publishing license, the protected portion of the message controlled by a rights management server, the publishing license defining one or more principals' rights to the protected portion of the message, and the separate message server use license including an encrypted key that corresponds to an entity's message server;

accessing the protected portion of the message at the entity's message server using the message server use license ~~to access the protected portion of the message~~—for performing operations on the protected portion in accordance with message policies defined by the entity; and

making the message and the publishing license available to the one or more principals when the protected portion of the message conforms to the message policies defined by the entity.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the message policies are chosen from one or more of an anti-virus scanning, an anti-spam scanning and search term indexing.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the protected portion of the message is at least one of a protected contact, protected document, protected attachment, protected calendar item or protected meeting request.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the operations are performed by a sending entity's server before sending the message and the publishing license to a partner entity.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the operations are performed by a partner entity's server when receiving the message from a sending entity.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the message server use license includes the rights available to the partner entity's server.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising the acts of:
receiving the sending entity's message policy, which defines the type of operations that the partner entity can perform on the protected portion of the message;

receiving the partner entity's message policy, which defines the type of operations that are to be performed on the message before the partner entity's message server can accept the message;

comparing the sending entity's message policy with the partner entity's message policy;
and

based on the comparison, determining if the policies are compatible before accepting the
message and the publishing license from the sending entity.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the partner entity receives the sending
entity's message policies from a directory service.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the format of the received sending
entity's message policies is XrML.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the directory services is one of a DNS,
Active Directory, LDAP, XKMS, or UDDI.

11. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the sending entity receives the partner
entity's message policies from the partner entity over a SMTP connection.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more principals are a process,
user, machine, server or client.

13.-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) At a sending entity's message server within a rights management system for protecting messages from unauthorized access, a computer program product comprising one or more computer readable media carrying computer executable instructions that implement a method of providing an entity the ability to enforce conditions under which the entity's message server will accept messages by providing the message server with a message server use license to access the protected messages, while still controlling unauthorized access to the protected messages by also providing a publishing license, the method comprising acts of:

receiving a message with a protected portion being controlled by a rights management server;

receiving a-the publishing license that includes rights available to one or more intended principals, the rights controlling the type of operations that can be performed on the protected portion of the message;

receiving message policies defined by an entity, which specify operations that are to be performed on the message;

requesting a-the message server use license that is separate from the publishing license to allow the entity's message server access to the protected portion of the message;

receiving the requested message server use license, the requested message server use license including an encrypted key that corresponds to the entity's message server; and

making the message, publishing license, and message server use license available to the entity's message server such that the entity's message server can enforce the message policies defined by the entity.

21. (Original) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the message policies are chosen from one or more of an anti-virus scanning, an anti-spam scanning and search term indexing.

22. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the protected portion of the message is at least one of a protected contact, protected document, protected attachment, protected calendar item or protected meeting request.

23. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the operations are performed by the sending entity's server before sending the message and the publishing license to a partner entity.

24. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23, further comprising the acts of: receiving the sending entity's message policy, which defines the type of operations that the partner entity is allowed to performed on the protected portion of the message;

receiving the partner entity's message policy, which defines the type of operations that are to be performed on the message before the partner entity's message server can accept the message;

comparing the sending entity's message policy with the partner entity's message policy; and

based on the comparison, determining if the policies are compatible before sending the message and the publishing license to the partner entity.

25. (Original) The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the sending entity receives the partner entity's message policies from a directory service.

26. (Original) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the format of the received partner entity's message policies is XrML.

27. (Original) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the directory services is one of a DNS, Active Directory, LDAP, XKMS, or UDDI.

28. (Original) The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the sending entity receives the partner entity's message policies from the partner entity over a SMTP connection.

29. (Original) The computer program product of claim 22, wherein the operations are performed by a partner entity's server when receiving the message from the sending entity.

30. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the one or more intended principals are a process, user, machine, server or client.

31. (Withdrawn) In a rights management system for protecting messages transferred between two trusted entities from unauthorized access, a method of determining if the messages can be transferred based on each others message policies, the method comprising acts of:

receiving a sending entity's message policy, which defines the type of operations that a partner entity is allowed to perform on a protected portion of a message;

receiving the partner entity's message policy, which defines the type of operations that are to be performed on the message before the partner entity's message server can accept the message;

comparing the sending entity's message policy with the partner entity's message policy; and

based on the comparison, determining if the policies are compatible for transferring the message between the sending and partner entities' message servers.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein the message policies are chosen from one or more of an anti-virus scanning, an anti-spam scanning and search term indexing.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 32, wherein the policies are received and compared at the sending entity's server for determining if the message should be transferred from the sending entity's server to the partner entity's message sever.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 32, wherein the policies are received and compared at the partner entity's server for determining if the message should be accepted when transferred from the sending entity's server to the partner entity's message sever.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 32, wherein the sending entity receives the partner entity's message policies from a directory service.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, wherein the format of the received partner entity's message policies is XrML.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, wherein the directory services is one of a DNS, Active Directory, LDAP, XKMS, or UDDI.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 32, wherein the sending entity receives the partner entity's message policies from the partner entity over a SMTP connection.